

SAN JOSE, CALIF.
MERCURY

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Date: SEP 18 1964

Editor: After finally acquiring a copy of our current best-seller, "The Invisible Government," and applying the knowledge gained therein to the month-old Gulf of Tonkin episode, a more clear picture begins to unfold.

The second attack upon our destroyers was a well organized, even if "spur of the moment," operation of the CIA to make an excuse to involve our more active support of the South Vietnamese commando raids against North Vietnam. Very likely the operation had the full knowledge of President Johnson for he is briefed daily on CIA operations and situation analysis. The retaliation measure to congress was probably planned in advance also. It is of everlasting credit to Senators Morse and Gruening that they smelled a very old and rotten herring in the whole episode and selflessly fought and voted against the blank-check retaliation measure. . . .

In the meantime, it is my sincere conviction that Senators Morse and Gruening are the only two public citizens of our nation who are morally qualified to become President and Vice-President of these United States. . . .

ELTON R. MAAS, Cupertino

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES-DISPATCH

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Date: SEP 18 1964
Scores U. S. Policy
In Viet Nam

I would like to express my opinion in reference to the money-wasting project better known as South Viet Nam.

Today (September 13) I heard over the short wave radio that the United States faces another setback in South Viet Nam, a coup d'etat by an ultranationalist, high ranking, officer with clear anti-U. S. overtones. These military and civilian puppets should be given a one-way trip to the moon.

The late John Foster Dulles

set up this acute situation and it has been a headache, the waste of public monies by so-called diplomats and the killing of our American boys in military uniform. This mess should be thrown in the lap of the United Nations, and the bureau known as the CIA should be given the Bronx cheer and the Iron Cross.

May I suggest that a Congressional body composed of Senators, headed by Harry F. Byrd, Russell of Georgia and Morse of Oregon, and an equal number of members of the House of Representatives, investigate this situation in South Viet Nam and cut off all aid. These roundtable conferences that have been going on are nothing more than cocktail parties.

I remain a conservative Richmond-born Virginian.

WILLIAM J. MEONI,
New Brunswick, Canada.

ELIZABETH, N. J.
JOURNAL

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Date: SEP 19 1964

Policy In Viet Nam

Editor, Journal: One of the chief weapons of the Democrats is to picture Sen. Goldwater as a trigger-happy, hip-shooting, jingoistic, and reckless warmonger. These charges stem from disagreement in dealing with foreign nations, whether they be friendly or hostile. Probably the primary difference in opinion is a result of Sen. Goldwater's proposals for victory in Viet Nam contrasted with that of the present administration.

Since the topple of Diem, the war has worsened, and recently, a CIA report stated that the chances of victory are extremely remote and that neutralization may be the only means to achieve peace. (Peking would love this, for it is a step closer to an inevitable takeover).

Though being a complex situation, something must be wrong with the manner in which it has been handled. The American casualty total is more than 1,000 with approximately 200 being fatal. The policy-makers claim that our 18,000 men in Viet Nam are serving as advisers. However, it is quite clear that this is not the case and that Americans are going on combat missions in which their capacity is by no means advisory.

The question is, what are they fighting for? There seems to be no objective of victory, for there would certainly be stronger measures taken if that were our goal. So American soldiers are dying and being sent to the jungles of Southeast Asia because the administration has not been able to make up its mind as to what the modus operandi should be.

The vacillation and indecision will most likely continue unless the plan of Sen. Goldwater is implemented into our disastrous foreign policy.

Although the situation has worsened gradually, there is some hope since we now have the prodigious Gen. Maxwell

Taylor as ambassador. Has anyone taken note of what the general has said recently? Well, he believes that in order to attain victory the privileged sanctuaries of the Viet Cong must no longer be treated as forbidden territory.

Sen. Goldwater proposed months ago that we interdict the supply lines in Cambodia, Laos, and North Viet Nam. For unless this is done there will be no means of preventing the enemy from refurbishing and thus we will be engaged in an endless war. It now looks like this course of action will be given a chance, for Gen. Taylor has suggested the same thing.

If the interdictions do take place, will the President and his policy makers in Washington be called the names which have been used to offend Sen. Goldwater? Or will the administration refrain from proper measures for fear of making Sen. Goldwater look right? Or will it continue to waver and fluctuate and allow Americans to die 10,000 miles away while we have communism 90 miles away?

RONALD S. GOODRICH, Elizabeth.

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